Mountain Weather Forecast

North Grampian

Including North and West Cairngorms National Park, Monadhliath, Ben Alder, Creag Meagaidh, Loch Ericht and Loch Rannoch
Forecast valid from 00:00 on Saturday 23 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Sunday 24 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Friday 22 Dec 2023 at 11:11 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for changeable weather up to Christmas. Lower confidence for a window of drier, brighter, less windy weather on Boxing Day.

Headline for Saturday 23 Dec 2023: Cloudy. Sleet and snow in north, turning increasingly to rain. Windy and feeling bitterly cold.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 23 Dec 2023

Blizzards
Low Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
Medium Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
Medium Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Sleet	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Light rain	Light rain
Precipitation probability							
00%	50%	40%	60%	60%	60%	60%	40%

Forecast for Saturday 23 Dec 2023

Weather: Cloudy with heavy rain in south of area overnight but heavy sleet and snow in north. The snow level will rise during Saturday morning but still likely to produce significant accumulations of snow on higher slopes with possible blizzard conditions as winds strengthen. Gradually the snow in north of area will turn to rain at all levels as milder air extends northwards across Scotland. Drier conditions developing in east of area during afternoon and evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Little chance in morning then 30% mainly east of area.

Low cloud and visibility: Generally misty conditions with poor visibility in rain and cloud and virtually zero visibility in heavier snow leading to navigational difficulties. Also extensive clouds well down the hills. Good visibility developing in east of area in afternoon with clouds lifting above some of the tops.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Forecast for Saturday 23 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	20/26 W	23/31 W	35/49 W	38/52 W	41/57 W	42/59 W	40/56 W	39/55 W	39/56 W
900	12/17 W	14/19 W	24/32 W	30/41 W	34/46 W	36/49 W	34/47 W	34/47 SW	33/47 W
600	7/11 W	8/12 W	10/16 NW	17/26 W	23/33 SW	25/37 SW	25/37 SW	24/36 SW	24/38 W
300	3/7 W	1/5 S	2/4 N	3/8 SW	7/19 SW	10/25 SW	14/31 SW	14/30 SW	15/32 SW
Glen	2/8 SW	2/7 SW	2/5 E	2/8 SE	4/19 SW	4/23 SW	5/24 SW	5/24 SW	5/25 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	-4/-11	-3/-10	0/-8	1/-7	2/-7	2/-6	2/-5	3/-5	3/-4
900	-1/-6	-0/-6	2/-4	4/-3	4/-2	5/-1	5/-1	6/-0	6/0
600	0/-3	1/-3	2/-1	5/1	6/2	7/3	7/2	7/3	8/3
300	2/-0	2/0	2/0	2/0	5/2	7/4	9/5	9/6	10/6
Glen	2/0	1/0	0/-1	2/1	5/4	8/6	10/7	10/8	10/8
Freezing Level*	600m	700m	1000m	1600m	1900m	1900m	2000m	2300m	1800m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View
Feeling bitterly cold, even when less cold air moves in. It will still be wet with strong winds. Also difficult underfoot conditions.

Forecast for Sunday 24 Dec 2023
Weather: A drier and brighter day with scattered showers, mostly towards Monadhliath, Creag Meagaidh and Ben Alder. It will become very windy with difficult walking conditions once again.

Maximum wind: Westerly gales with severe gales on the tops, possibly storm force later, average speeds 40 to 50 with gusts 70 to 80mph, possibly 100mph over Cairngorm by dusk.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 60%, best in east of area.

Low cloud and visibility: Good visibility between showers with occasional cloud cover 700 to 900m. Brief reductions to poor visibility as showers pass by, especially in west of area, clouds more extensive down to 600m.

Temperature: **Glens:** Plus 7 Celsius.
At 800m: Plus 7 Celsius falling to plus 2 Celsius by evening.
Freezing level: Above tops for much of the day, lowering to 1000m after dark,

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